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Donor Profile: Gary Lowitt

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Keeping Alive Her True Generosity of Spirit

Gary Lowitt Honors Gwen Fernich Lowitt, V'94, with a Memorial Scholarship

Following a Penn Vet tradition, **Gwen Fernich Lowitt, V'94**, received her veterinary degree from her father, **Fred Fernich, V'63**. Tragically, Dr. Lowitt's career and life were cut short by a rare form of cancer she struggled with for 11 years; she lost her fight on May 6, 2007, at the age of 39. Early in her career, Dr. Lowitt completed an internship at Oradell Animal Hospital in Oradell, NJ, and then served as a staff doctor at Oradell for seven years. After her illness made it impossible for her to work full time, she practiced part time as a relief veterinarian at various animal hospitals in New York City, including Abingdon Square, Gramercy Park and Heart of Chelsea.

To recognize his wife's love of learning and animals—and her contributions to veterinary medicine—Gary Lowitt, C'87—along with Gwen's parents Dr. and Mrs.

Fernich—established the Gwen Fernich Lowitt, V'94, Memorial Endowed Opportunity Scholarship.

"Gwen loved being a vet, and continuing to work as much as possible, even as she became sicker and sicker, helped her to feel 'normal.' She was a remarkable person, in every respect, who touched everyone fortunate enough to know her," Gary said. "I wanted to do something to honor Gwen's memory, and knew it should involve Penn Vet. She was so humble and selfless, she would never have wanted a plaque with her name attached to a classroom or a piece of equipment; that just wasn't her. Gwen valued education and always looked to expand her knowledge of veterinary medicine and to mentor younger vets to become better doctors. Funding this scholarship for veterinary students is the perfect way to keep alive her true generosity of spirit."

Gary currently is vice president of acquisitions and dispositions at Ginsburg Development Companies, a privately owned residential developer based in Westchester, NY. He lives on Manhattan's Upper East Side with three cats: Desmond, a Russian blue; Wesley, a flame-point Siamese; and Zelda, a sphinx. ■



Per a Penn Vet tradition, Gwen Fernich Lowitt, V'94, receives her veterinary diploma from her father, Fred Fernich, V'63.



Gwen and Gary

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ALUMNI AWARDS of MERIT

Your alumni board is seeking nominations for the 2009 Alumni Award of Merit for distinguished Penn Vet Alumni.

To be presented at the Penn Annual Conference in March 2010, these awards are given to alumni stars and recognize distinguished graduates for their contributions that advance knowledge in biomedicine, promote the welfare of animals through public education of animal owners and benefit society through civic activities that foster the advancement of the profession and the School's good name.

The Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board is seeking candidates from 2009 reunion classes (classes ending in '4 or '9).

Please forward your anonymous or signed nominations to Coreen M. Haggerty, director of alumni relations, at 215.898.1481 or haggertc@vet.upenn.edu.